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REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 8, and have added new claim 22. Claims 1, 2, 4-14 and 22 are presently pending in the application.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4, 6-11, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Hush (U.S. Patent No. 6,873,538), and rejected claims 5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hush in view of Chen et al. (U.S. Publication No. US2004/0257854). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Regarding these rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. Sections 102 and 103 as being anticipated or obvious, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Ngan Ngo for the oral and email correspondences extended to Applicants' representative, Kenton R. Mullins, from March 10, 2006 to March 13, 2006, at which times it was indicated, as Applicants understand the matter, by Examiner Ngo that the pending independent claims as amended herein would appear to distinguish over the prior art of record. It is noted that these correspondences were follow-ups to earlier emails dated January 9, 2006 between Examiner Ngo and Mr. Mullins. Accordingly, Applicants request that the outstanding rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' attorney at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,



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